

CLAIMS:

1. A patient support comprising,

a frame;

a mattress supported by the frame;

5 a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

the latching mechanism including a rocker arm having first and second

10 ends movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled proximate the first end of the rocker arm, a latch member coupled proximate the second end of the rocker arm, the handle member being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the latch member between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member.

20 2. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the latching mechanism includes a pair of latch members configured to move toward each other during movement from the latched position to the unlatched position, and configured to move away from each other during movement from the unlatched position to the latched position.

3. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the handle member is configured to slide along a linear path to provide pivoting movement of the rocker arm.

25 4. The patient support of claim 3, wherein linear movement of the handle member in a first direction causes linear movement of the latch member in a second direction not parallel to the first direction.

30 5. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the linkage includes a link having a base configured to support the latching mechanism and defining a handle opening, and the handle member includes a first end pivotably coupled to the rocker arm and a second end accessible from the handle opening.

6. The patient support of claim 5, further comprising a spring positioned intermediate the first end of the handle member and the base of the link, the spring

being configured to bias the handle member such that the latch member is in the latched position.

7. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the linkage includes a first link coupled to the frame, a second link pivotably coupled to the first link, a third link pivotably coupled to the second link, and a fourth link pivotably coupled to the third link and the first link, the latch member in the latched position being configured to bind the fourth link and the first link to prevent pivoting movement therebetween.

8. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the linkage includes a flange coupled to the frame and including a latch aperture, a link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the latch member, the latch member being received within the latch aperture when in the latched position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

9. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the latch member comprises a substantially cylindrical pin.

10. The patient support of claim 1, further comprising an indicator operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide a visual indication of the unlatched position.

11. The patient support of claim 10, wherein the indicator includes an indicating surface configured to move in response to movement of the latch member.

12. The patient support of claim 11, wherein:

the linkage includes a link having a base configured to receive the latching mechanism and defining an indicator opening; and

the indicator is fixed to the handle member and is configured to move relative to the indicator opening such that the indicating surface is visible when the latch member is in the unlatched position and is substantially hidden by the base when the latch member is in the latched position.

13. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

a mattress supported by the frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

the latching mechanism including a latch member configured to move between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member, and a handle member operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide movement of the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position, wherein movement of the handle member in a first plane causes movement of the latch member in a second plane not parallel to the first plane.

5 14. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the latching mechanism includes a pair of latch members configured to move toward each other during movement from the latched position to the unlatched position, and configured to move away from each other during movement from the unlatched position to the latched position.

10 15. The patient support of claim 13, further comprising an indicator operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide a visual indication of the unlatched position.

15 16. The patient support of claim 15, wherein the indicator includes an indicating surface configured to move in response to movement of the latch member.

20 17. The patient support of claim 16, wherein:
 the linkage includes a link having a base configured to receive the latching mechanism and defining an indicator opening; and
 the indicator is fixed to the handle member and is configured to move relative to the indicator opening such that the indicating surface is visible when the latch member is in the unlatched position and is substantially hidden by the base when the latch member is in the latched position.

25 18. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the latch member includes a longitudinal axis and is configured to move along the longitudinal axis between the latched position and the unlatched position.

30 19. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the latching mechanism includes a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, the handle member being coupled to the first end of the rocker arm, the latch member being coupled to the second end of the rocker arm, and the handle member being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position.

20. The patient support of claim 19, wherein the rocker arm is substantially L-shaped.

21. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the handle member is configured to slide along a linear path to provide linear movement of the latch member.

5 22. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the linkage includes a link having a base configured to support the latching mechanism and defining a handle opening, and the handle member includes an end accessible from the handle opening.

10 23. The patient support of claim 22, further comprising a spring positioned intermediate the handle member and the base of the link, the spring being configured to bias the handle member such that the latch member is in the latched position.

15 24. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the linkage includes a first link coupled to the frame, a second link pivotably coupled to the first link, a third link pivotably coupled to the second link, and a fourth link pivotably coupled to the third link and the first link, the latch member in the latched position being configured to bind the fourth link and the first link to prevent pivoting movement therebetween.

20 25. The patient support of claim 13, wherein the linkage includes a flange coupled to the frame and including a latch aperture, a link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the latch member, the latch member being received within the latch aperture when in the latched position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

25 26. A patient support comprising,
a frame;
a mattress supported by the frame;
a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit raising and lowering of the rail member, and a retaining member configured to retain the rail member in the at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

30 means for moving the retaining member between a first position which prevents raising and lowering of the rail member and a second position which permits raising and lowering of the rail member, wherein movement of the means for moving in a first direction causes linear movement of the retaining member in a second direction not parallel to the first direction.

27. The patient support of claim 26, further comprising an indicator operably coupled to the retaining member and configured to provide a visual indication of the unlatched position.

5 28. The patient support of claim 27, wherein the indicator includes an indicating surface configured to move in response to movement of the retaining member.

29. The patient support of claim 28, wherein:
the linkage includes a link having a base configured to receive the retaining member and defining an indicator opening; and

10 the indicator is configured to move relative to the indicator opening such that the indicating surface is visible when the retaining member is in the second position and is substantially hidden by the base when the retaining member is in the first position.

30. The patient support of claim 26, wherein the means for moving includes a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled to the first end of the rocker arm, and the retaining member being coupled to the second end of the rocker arm, wherein the handle member is configured to rotate the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the retaining member between the first position and the second position.

20 31. The patient support of claim 30, wherein the handle member is configured to slide along a linear path to provide linear movement of the retaining member.

25 32. The patient support of claim 26, wherein the linkage includes a first link coupled to the frame, a second link pivotably coupled to the first link, a third link pivotably coupled to the second link, and a fourth link pivotably coupled to the third link and the first link, the retaining member in the latched position being configured to bind the fourth link and the first link to prevent pivoting movement therebetween.

30 33. The patient support of claim 26, wherein the linkage comprises a flange coupled to the frame and including an aperture, a link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the retaining member, the retaining member being received within the aperture when in the first position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

34. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

a patient support surface supported by the frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member

5 and a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member, and a latch member configured to move between a latched position and an unlatched position, the latch member in the unlatched position permitting vertical movement of the rail member and the latch member in the latched position retaining the rail member in a vertical position; and

10 a latch position indicator operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide an indication of the latch member being in the unlatched position.

15 35. The patient support of claim 34, wherein the latch position indicator includes a body having an indicating surface configured to move in response to movement of the latch member.

36. The patient support of claim 35, further comprising a base having an indicator opening and configured to support the latch position indicator.

20 37. The patient support of claim 36, wherein the base includes a contrast surface visually distinguishable from the indicating surface of the latch position indicator.

25 38. The patient support of claim 36, wherein the indicating surface of the latch position indicator is substantially not visible from a first side of the base when the latch position indicator is in the latched position, and the indicating surface of the latch position indicator is visible from the first side of the base when the latch position indicator is in the unlatched position.

39. The patient support of claim 36, further comprising a cover coupled to the base, the base and the cover defining a latch-receiving void.

40. The patient support of claim 34, wherein:

30 the linkage includes a link having a base configured to receive the latch member and defining an indicator opening; and

the indicator is configured to move relative to the indicator opening such that the latch position indicator is visible when the latch member is in the

unlatched position and is substantially hidden by the base when the latch member is in the latched position.

41. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

5 a mattress supported by the frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member, and a latch member having a latched position and an unlatched position, the latch member in the latched position being configured to prevent vertical movement of the rail member;

10 and

means for providing an indication that the latch member is in at least one of the latched and unlatched positions.

42. The patient support of claim 41, wherein the means for providing an indication includes a body having an indicating surface configured to move in response to movement of the latch member.

15 43. The patient support of claim 42, further comprising a base having an indicator opening and configured to support the means for providing an indication.

44. The patient support of claim 43, wherein the base includes a contrast surface visually distinguishable from the indicating surface of the body.

20 45. The patient support of claim 43, wherein the indicating surface of the body is substantially not visible from a first side of the base when the position indicator is in the latched position, and the indicating surface of the position indicator is visible from the first side of the base when the position indicator is in the unlatched position.

25 46. A method of indicating an unlatched position of a siderail, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a frame;

providing a mattress supported by the frame;

30 providing a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latch member including a latched position and an unlatched position, the latch member in the latched position being configured to prevent vertical movement of the rail member;

lifting the rail member to the raised position; and
providing a visual indication of whether the latch member is in the latched position.

5 47. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of moving the rail member from the raised position.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein the step of providing a visual indication comprises providing a latch indicator and changing the indicator from a first condition to a second condition.

10 49. The method of claim 48, wherein the second condition includes displaying a indicating surface and the first condition includes not displaying the indicating surface.

15 50. The method of claim 46, wherein the linkage comprises a flange coupled to the frame and including a latch aperture, a link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the latch member, the latch member being received within the latch aperture when in the latched position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

51. The method of claim 46, wherein the step of providing a visual indication comprises providing an indicator operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide a visual indication of the unlatched position, and moving the indicator in response to movement of the latch member.

20 52. The method of claim 51, wherein:
the linkage includes a link having a base configured to receive the latching mechanism and defining an indicator opening; and
the indicator includes an indicating surface which is configured to move relative to the indicator opening such that the indicating surface is visible when the latch member is in the unlatched position and is substantially hidden by the base when the latch member is in the latched position.

25 53. A patient support comprising:
a frame;
a patient support surface supported by the frame;
a first component coupled to the frame;
a second component operably coupled to the first component and configured to move relative to the first component between a first position and a second position;

a position indicator coupled to the second component and movable between a first position and a second position, the position indicator including a body having an indicating surface; and

5 a housing configured to receive the position indicator, wherein the indicating surface of the position indicator is not visible from outside of the housing when the position indicator is in the first position and the indication surface of the position indicator is visible outside of the housing when the position indicator is in the second position.

10 54. The patient support of claim 53, wherein the first component is a bed siderail.

55. The patient support of claim 54, wherein the second component is a latch, the first position prevents vertical movement of the siderail, and the second position permits vertical movement of the siderail.

15 56. The patient support of claim 53, wherein the housing includes a base, and a cover coupled to the base, the housing defining a void for receiving the second component.

57. The patient support of claim 56, wherein the base includes a contrast surface visually distinguishable from the indicating surface of the position indicator.

20 58. The patient support of claim 56, wherein the base includes an indicator opening, the position indicator being visible through the indicator opening when in the second position.